

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (canceled).

2 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 ~~and~~ 3 and further including a ~~step~~ step of hardening said selected parts before the step of applying said solid lubricant to said surfaces.

3 (currently amended). A method of treating selected parts of paint ball markers, comprising the step of applying a solid lubricant to those surfaces of selected working parts of a paint ball marker that are exposed to relative motion with another working part or with a paint ball projectile ~~The method of claim 1~~ where the selected ~~items of the~~ working parts ~~are coated~~ have the solid lubricant applied by being coated with a material selected from a ~~class~~ group consisting of metals, ~~chemicals~~, ceramics, ~~elements~~, graphite and polymers ~~excluding~~ exhibiting lubricious properties.

4 (original). The method of claim 3 wherein the metals include one of nickel, silver, zinc, copper, molybdenum and alloys thereof.

5 (currently amended). The method of claim 3 wherein the polymers include silicone, ptfe, ~~ulmw~~ ultra high molecular weight polyethylene and other fluoropolymers.

6 (currently amended). The method of claim 4 3 wherein the solid lubricant comprises a ~~thin~~ film coating incorporating particles selected from a group consisting of molybdenum disulfide, graphite, silicone, carbon and fluoropolymers.

7 (currently amended). The method of claim 4 3 and further including the steps of:

- (a) cleaning said surfaces with one of an alkaline and acid bath to remove any contaminants therefrom;
- (b) rinsing said surfaces free of the alkaline or acid bath; and
- (c) chemically etching said surface prior to applying the solid lubricant to said surfaces.

8. The method as in claim 6 wherein the surfaces are aluminum and the ~~permanent~~ solid lubricant is nickel.

9 (original). The method as in claim 7 and further including a step of pretreating the aluminum surfaces with a zincate solution and hard anodizing the surfaces following the chemical etching step and prior to applying the solid lubricant.

10 (original). The process for treating working parts of a paint ball marker comprising hardening mating surfaces of said working parts; and applying a solid lubricant to said mating surface.

11 (currently amended). The process as in claim 4 3 wherein one ~~such mating surface~~ of said surfaces comprises moving parts of a solenoid valve.

12 (currently amended). The method of claim 4 3 wherein said application of the solid lubricant comprises subjecting the selected parts to an aerosol spray.

13 (canceled).

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14 (currently amended). The method of claim ~~4~~ 3 wherein said application of solid lubricant is by one of air-less spraying, air-assisted spraying, air brushing, and spray pumping.